

## Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05  
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 CU-04 TRSE-00  
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2843

INFO ALL EC CAPS 3020

RUFHJAAMEMBASSY BERLIN 446

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 0693

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PINT

SUBJECT: ICFTU STATEMENT ON EAST EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

1. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) IS TODAY ISSUING A PRESS RELEASE CONDEMNING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE, SINGLING OUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN PARTICULAR FOR ITS "VICIOUS REACTION" AGAINST SIGNERS OF THE CHARTER 77 MANIFESTO. THE ICFTU IS SUBMITTING A COMPLAINT AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN THE ILO, AND WILL ALSO RAISE THE PROBLEM WITH UNESCO AND AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS' COMMISSION, ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT. TEXT OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: - THE PRESENT WAVE OF PERSECUTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS CAMPAIGNERS WHICH IS GAINING MOMENTUM IN A NUMBER OF EAST COUNTRIES, NOTABLY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA,  
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POLAND, EAST GERMANY AND THE SOVIET UNION, IS A CAUSE OF DEEP CONCERN TO THE INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. CONCRETE STEPS TO BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY WERE ANNOUNCED BY OTTO KERSTEN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BRUSSELS-BASED INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS.  
"THE ICFTU," HE AFFIRMED "IS COMMITTED TO DEFEND

HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS WHEREVER THEY ARE VIOLATED, IN EAST OR WEST, NORTH OR SOUTH. THIS MANDATE, GIVEN US IN OUR CONSTITUTION, WAS REAFFIRMED BY OUR LAST CONGRESS IN MEXICO AS A PRIORITY TASK, PARTICULARLY DURING THE "YEAR OF THE PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE", PROCLAIMED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. WE THEREFORE, FELT GREATLY HEARTENED AND ENCOURAGED BY THE RENEWED STIRRINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY AMONG THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN EUROPE WHO ARE DEMANDING WITH EVER GROWING INSISTENCE THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. "WE FIND IT SCANDALOUS THAT THE RULERS IN THESE COUNTRIES, WHO CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE WORKERS, ARE ONCE AGAIN RESPONDING TO SUCH APPEALS BY RESORTING TO METHODS OF REPRESSION AND PERSECUTION. I AM THINKING OF THE TREATMENT WHICH THE WORKERS HAVE RECEIVED IN POLAND, OF THE EAST GERMAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST WRITERS AND ARTISTS WHO DARE TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES, I AM REFERRING TO THE HARRASSMENT BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES OF CRITICS LIKE SAKHAROV, OF THE CONFINEMENT OF THEIR SANEST CITIZENS TO PSYCHIATRIC CLINICS AND ALL THE REST OF IT. BUT WHAT HAS PARTICULARLY SHOCKED US, AND I AM SURE FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD, IS THE VICIOUS REACTION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT TO THE CHARTER 77, THE MANIFESTO WHOSE SIGNATORIES SIMPLY DEMANDED THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE TREATY OF HELSINKI AND BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS WHICH CAME INTO FORCE ON 23 MARCH 1976. THIS PACT PROVIDES THAT ALL MEMBER STATES SHOULD GUARANTEE, INTER ALIA, TO EVERYONE

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"THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, THIS RIGHT SHALL INCLUDE FREEDOM TO SEEK, RECEIVE AND IMPART INFORMATION AND IDEAS OF ALL KINDS, REGARDLESS OF FRONTIERS, EITHER ORALLY, IN WRITING OR IN PRINT, IN THE FORM OF ART, OR THROUGH ANY OTHER MEDIA OF HIS CHOICE."

"THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS SIGNED THIS CONVENANT, TREATS ALL THOSE WHO INSIST ON THESE RIGHTS AS TRAITORS AND ENEMY AGENTS. THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO ALL KINDS OF INDIGNITIES, THEY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, QUESTIONED FOR HOURS, RELEASED AND REARRESTED - SO FAR, FOUR ARRESTS HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED - OTHERS ARE BEING DISMISSED FROM THEIR JOBS, AND A VITRIOLIC PRESS CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN STARTED AGAINST THEM.

"IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO LAMENT, AND PROTEST AGAINST, THESE THINGS. WORLD OPINION MUST BE MOBILISED TO HELP THE DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM AND TO PREVENT,

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, A RELAPSE INTO THE PRACTICES  
OF THE STALINIST ERA. THE ICFTU IS SUBMITTING A  
COMPLAINT TO THE ILO ON GROUNDS THAT THESE ACTIONS  
VIOLATE CONVENTION III ON DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOY-  
MENT (WHICH CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS RATIFIED).

"WE ALSO INTEND TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH UNESCO,  
CALLING UPON IT TO ACT IN DEFENCE OF CULTURAL AND  
INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM, AND WITH THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS'  
COMMISSION WHICH IS MEETING IN GENEVA EARLY  
NEXT MONTH. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ICFTU WILL REQUEST  
ITS AFFILIATES IN ALL COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SIGNED THE  
CONVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS TO URGE THEIR  
GOVERNMENTS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THEIR CO-SIGNATORY,  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA." END TEXT  
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## Message Attributes

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